

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 11-19 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. New claims 20-22 were added. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-10, and 20-22 remain pending in the present application. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over **Shojo et al.** (USP 5,724,641). However, nothing in the cited prior art teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention.

For instance, independent claims 1 and 3, amended for clarity, recite the location of a discharge tray to be disposed at and covering the upper portion of the cabinet for the image forming apparatus, and ***under*** the housing of the optical reading apparatus. This is shown, for example purposes only, in Figure 5 of the present application, wherein the discharge tray 61 is located at an upper portion of the cabinet for the image forming apparatus (e.g. printer 31), and underneath the optical reading apparatus (e.g. scanner 30).

In contrast, **Shojo** describes a discharge tray (e.g., 200) disposed at the ***side*** of the main cabinet. This is directly contrary to the present claimed location of the discharge tray being disposed at and covering an upper portion of the cabinet of the image forming

apparatus, as well as being *under* the housing of the optical reading apparatus. Indeed, the cited prior art teaches no more than the prior art described in Figure 1 of the present application. As described in the Background of the Invention section of the present application, such conventional image forming apparatus requires additional floor space to accommodate the additional protruding discharge trays. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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